



New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

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Special Child Health Services Program 1-15-81

Special Child Health Services Program, with a combination of State and Federal funds and under the supervision of the State Department of Health, promotes early diagnosis, evaluation and treatment of children with handicapping or potentially handicapping conditions.

The Program includes the following components:

- Crippled Children Services (as mandated by Title V of the Social Security Act);
- Genetic Services Program;
- Juvenile Terminal Illness Assistance Program; and
- SSI-Disabled Children's Program.

Crippled Children Services 2-13-2012

Purpose

The Crippled Children Services program makes quality health care services available to any infant or child with special needs through a network of services supported by Special Child Health Services.

Eligibility

Any infant or child under 21 years of age with a physically handicapping or potentially handicapping condition is eligible for services.

Registration

The Program maintains a registry of infants and children who have or are at risk for developing a handicapping condition. Children who have a visible birth defect or who are diagnosed as having cerebral palsy must be registered by State law.

The registry is used by the Program to plan services for children who have special needs. All information is kept confidential and will not be released except to make services known to an individual child or his family.

A parent or guardian may, upon request to the Program, ask to have his/her child's name removed from the registry if the registration is not required by law.

A child may be registered by a parent, physician, nurse, social worker or by any person/agency who knows the child's diagnosis. The Worker is encouraged to register children who might be eligible for services regardless of Medicaid eligibility/living arrangements.

As part of the registration process, a letter is sent to the parents confirming the registration and informing them of services which are available. A local public health nursing agency may be informed of the child's registration and may contact the parents to determine if the child is receiving health care services.

Services Provided

Community Based/Local Services:

Public Health Nursing

For skilled nursing care in the home, for general health supervision and for referral to agencies and health care facilities for necessary special health services.

Infant Development Programs

For children 0-3 years of age who show risk for delayed development.

Sub-Regional Evaluation/Treatment Services:

Child Evaluating Centers

Multidisciplinary teams provide total evaluations of children who have or are suspected of having a handicapping condition.

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Centers

Provide physical, occupational and speech therapy services.

Communication Disorders Centers

Provide evaluation and treatment services, including speech therapy and audiology services for children with or suspected of having speech or hearing impairment. Services also include evaluations and recommendations for hearing aids.

Cranio-Facial Anomalies Centers

Provide comprehensive evaluation and treatment services for children with cleft lip/palate and other cranio-facial problems.

Inpatient Hospitalization

Financial assistance is provided for infants and children who are receiving care for chronic handicapping or potentially handicapping conditions and who are not covered by either another governmental agency or private insurance and whose parents do not have the private resources to pay for the care.

Regional Evaluation/Diagnostic/Treatment Centers:

Special Child Health Services supports a limited number of centers to provide services on an inpatient and outpatient basis for children who have or are suspected of having:

- Cardiac Problems
- Oncological Diseases (Cancer)
 - Chronic Respiratory Problems
 - Cystic Fibrosis
- Thalassemia

Appliances

Financial assistance is available toward the purchase of braces, prosthetic devices or hearing aids if the family has no other resource for payment (i.e. they are not eligible for assistance from any other governmental agency, have no private insurance and cannot afford to pay for the appliances).

Financial Eligibility and Payments for Services

In most cases, services are funded through Health Service Contracts awarded to approved providers by the Special Child Health Services Program. The providers are responsible for registering a child with the Program prior to or at the time of initiation of services.

All approved providers are required to seek payment from other third party sources, including Title XIX - Medicaid. A sliding fee scale will be applied for those families who have no other source for payment.

Appliances and inpatient care are provided on a fee for service basis by the Program. To be eligible for this financial assistance, the following conditions must be met:

- 1) The request for treatment is related to a disability covered by the program.
Almost all chronic handicapping conditions are covered.
- 2) The child's family is unable to meet the entire cost of the treatment needed, and there is no other resource, such as private insurance or other agency support to cover it, as determined by the approved provider.
- 3) The service is recommended and will be supervised by a member of the Special Child Health Services Panel of Physicians and Dentists, and it will be provided at an institution with which the program has a formal agreement. In the case of

requests for braces, prostheses, and other request must be accompanied by an estimate of their cost by the proposed vendor.

- 4) The county in which the child lives agrees to share the cost of services. The county match is 40% of the cost.

If the county does not agree to share the cost, a case review is done to determine whether the child is eligible for financial assistance from the Program.

Children who are residing in CP&P supported living arrangements have Medicaid or other third party insurance coverage and are therefore not eligible for financial assistance from Special Child Health Services. However, the Worker may contact Special Child Health Services for technical assistance in regard to particular cases as well as assurance that quality services are available to children living in CP&P supported living arrangements, who, except for financial eligibility, qualify for the program.

For additional information contact Special Child Health Services, P.O. Box 1540, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625.

Genetic Services Program 2-13-2012

Voluntary genetic testing and counseling services are available on a statewide basis through a network of service centers funded by the Genetic Services Program. The network includes three major centers located at CMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, CMDNJ-Rutgers Medical School and Jefferson Medical College.

Counseling and simple laboratory tests are also available at nine satellite centers strategically located throughout New Jersey. All satellites have a formal affiliation with one of the major centers.

A sliding fee scale is used for all counseling and testing services of other third party payment resources, including governmental agencies, are not available.

For additional information, contact the Genetic Services Program, Special Child Health Services, P.O. Box 1540, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

Juvenile Terminal Illness Assistance Program 2-13-2012

The New Jersey Juvenile Terminal Illness Assistance Program provides financial support for outpatient clinics providing services to children with cancer.

The Program provides partial support for two satellite oncology clinics of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia at Mercer Medical Center, Trenton, and West Jersey Hospital in Voorhees Township.

Financial Assistance is available on a sliding fee scale for outpatient services at United Hospitals Medical Center and College Hospital, both in Newark.

For further information, contact the Juvenile Terminal Illness Assistance Program, Special Child Health Services, P.O. Box 1540, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

SSI-Disabled Children's Program 1-15-81

SSI-Disabled Children's Program is a part of the Special Child Health Services Program of the New Jersey Department of Health. See [CP&P-III-C-2-400](#) for information regarding the SSI-Disabled Children's Program.

Quality of Services 1-15-81

Funds from all Special Child Health Services component programs are limited to health care agencies/facilities which meet the Program's criteria for quality care. Services are provided by qualified teams under the direction of physicians who are Board Certified in the appropriate specialty.